

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: STOCKHOLM 3528

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN AN INTERVIEW WHICH APPEARED IN THE JULY 21 EDITION OF THE GERMAN PAPER DIE WELT, SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS, INCLUDING CSCE, PORTUGAL, THE MID-EAST, THE DANGERS TO SMALL STATES OF SUPER POWER DETENTE, AND SOVIET COOPERATION WITH THE NORDIC COUNTRIES. SELECTED EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

2. PORTUGAL: "THE ELECTIONS BROUGHT THE SOCIALISTS TO VICTORY BUT NOT TO POWER ...WE CONSIDER IT AN IMPORTANT TASK TO KEEP PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY ALIVE IN PORTUGAL.

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THE MILITARY PLANS A SO-CALLED DIRECT DEMOCRACY. BUT IS THAT ANY DIFFERENT FROM A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP?"

3. CSCE: "THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE IS A FINNISH SHOW, AN

EFFORT TO GIVE FRAGILE NEUTRALITY PROTECTIVE SANCTIFICATION BY MEANS OF A HIGH LEVEL MEETING (WASN'T THAT ONCE THE PLAN FOR BERLIN?)...WE HOPE THAT THE DIVISION OF EUROPE INTO TWO BLOCKS CAN BE DISSOLVED THROUGH A SYSTEM OF ALL-EUROPEAN COOPERATION. THAT IS WHAT SWEDEN IS INTERESTED IN, NOT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT...THE FINAL DOCUMENT IS POLITICAL IN NATURE AND CREATES NO NEW INTERNATIONAL LAW. IT IS BINDING IN A POLITICAL AND MORAL WAY AND EACH PARTICIPATING STATE HAS TO PUT ITS PROVISIONS INTO PRACTICE ON THIS BASIS. THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES (BASKET ONE) CONFIRMS EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE PRESENT LEGAL SITUATION WILL NOT BE CHANGED THEREBY."

4. DETENTE: "THERE SIMPLY IS NO ALTERNATIVE (TO DETENTE)... IT IS IN THE NATURE OF DETENTE THAT THE SUPER POWERS PREFER MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO TO MAKING CHANGES.... THE SUPER POWERS MAY IN THE NAME OF DETENTE MEET CHANGING CONDITIONS WITH SO MUCH RESTRAIN THAT THEY PREFER TO TAKE THE PRESERVATION OF UNJUST AND DANGEROUS CONDITIONS INTO THE BARGAIN."

5. MID-EAST: "I WAS IN CAIRO IN FEBRUARY AND JERUSALEM IN APRIL. MY IMPRESSION: THE ISRAELIS CONDUCT A POLICY OF STANDING STILL. THEIR BIG QUESTION IS: CAN WE TRUST ELOLITICAL AGREEMENTS AND GUARANTEES THAT SECURE OUR NATIONAL EXISTENCE? OR DO WE HAVE TO RELY ON OUR MILITARY STRENGTH WHICH WOULD BE EVEN BIGGER IF OUR BORDERS WERE EVEN FURTHER FROM ISRAEL'S HEART? THE ISRAELI LEADERS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND IN KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO CREATE CONTACTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ANY OF THESE GUARANTEES THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR THEIR LIFE INTERESTS. AS TO CONTACTS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE ISRAELIS ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE AMERICANS."

6. RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: "THE RELATIONS BETWEEN RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES DEMAND GROWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ATTENTION. THAT IS WHY SWEDEN ATTACHES SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE SPECIAL UNGA IN SELTEMBER...I DO NOT SEE HOW A CONFRONTATION CAN BE AVOIDED WHEN STEPS TOWARDS A RADICAL CHANGE OF THE PRESENT STITUATION ARE NOT INITIATED."

7. SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN NORDIC COOPERATION: "SWEDEN IS VERY INTERESTED IN FRUITFUL COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. BUT THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT A NORDIC COUNTRY. AND THERE ARE NO REPEAT NO REASONS TO USE THE INSTITUTIONS OF NORDIC COOPERATION FOR OUR COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION, ESPECIALLY SINCE THESE INSTRUMENTS WERE NOT REPEAT NOT MADE FOR THIS

PURPOSE." END UNCLASSIFIED

8. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: THE ANDERSSON INTERVIEW IS A CANDID STATEMENT OF CURRENT SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS. IN HIS COMMENTS ON DETENTE, ANDERSSON IS ECHOING THE LINE SET FORTH BY PRIME MINISTER PALME IN PITEA A YEAR AGO, WHEN HE WARNED OF THE DANGERS FOR SMALL POWERS WHICH COULD ARISE FROM SUPER POWER COLLABORATION.

9. IN REFERRING TO THE ISRAELI POLICY AS BEING ONE OF "STANDING STILL," THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS STATING PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME WHAT SWEDISH OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ASSERTING PRIVATELY FOR SOME TIME, I.E., THAT THE GOS REGARDS THE ISRAELI POSITION AS ONE OF INFLEXIBILITY. THIS SAME OPENNESS IS APPARENT IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S OBSERVATION THAT ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF HOLDING A CSCE SUMMIT IN HELSINKI IS TO STRENGTHEN FINLAND'S NEUTRAL IMAGE.

10. FINALLY, THE DESCRIPTION OF THE MFA'S PLAN FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL AS NO DIFFERENT FROM A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP, SUGGESTS THAT THE SWEDISH LEADERSHIP HAS FINALLY - IF BELATEDLY - BEGUN TO REALIZE THE TRUE NATURE OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT IN PORTUGAL. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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